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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TRUSTEES

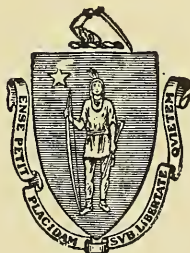
OF THE

WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1928

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES



TRUSTEES OF THE WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL

ALBERT L. HARWOOD, *Chairman*, Newton
HERBERT PARSONS, *Secretary*, Brookline
MRS. WILLARD SCOTT, Brookline

GEORGE W. GAY, M. D., Newton
THOMAS H. RATIGAN, Boston
PHILIP RUBENSTEIN, Brookline

KATHARINE D. HARDWICK, Quincy

OFFICERS FOR 1928-1929

GEORGE L. WALLACE, M. D., *Superintendent*
MILDRED A. LIBBY, M. D., *Senior Physician*
ALICE M. PATTERSON, M. D., *Senior Physician*
RAYMOND A. KINMONTH, M. D., *Senior Physician*
GENEVIEVE GUSTIN, M. D., *Assistant Physician*
JOHN A. NASH, D. M. D.
PERRY E. CURTIS, *Steward*
ELIZABETH OLDHAM, *Treasurer*
PEARL H. LITTLEFIELD, *Head Teacher*
MRS. AGNES S. TRITES, *Head Industrial Therapist*
HAWLEY P. FOSTER, *Head Social Worker*
DORIS L. GERRY, *Social Worker*
RUTH A. PROUTY, *Psychologist*
MRS. JENNIE GILBERT, *Dietitian*
IRA A. BENNETT, *Chief Operating Engineer*
EUGENE SLEEPER, *Foreman Mechanic*
FRED HEFFRON, *Head Farmer*

MEDICAL CONSULTING SPECIALISTS

DR. GEORGE T. VOGEL, *Laryngologist*
DR. H. B. C. REIMER, *Oculist*
DR. HALSEY B. LOWDER, *Surgeon*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL

To His Excellency the Governor, the General Court and the Commissioner of Mental Diseases:

The Trustees of the Wrentham State School have the honor to submit their twenty-third annual report.

Restating what is familiar to citizens of Massachusetts but may not be beyond its borders, the Wrentham State School is the second in point of years in the Commonwealth's trio of schools for the feeble-minded, established in 1906, and located at Wrentham, in Norfolk County some twenty-five miles from the capitol.

It has a tract of 600 acres, formerly constituting farm homesteads with their usual outlying lands of pasture and wood, which has been reduced to a school site with a dignity worthy of a college campus, highly cultivated acres, a detached dairy and stock section and all the other refinements that go to make up a thoroughly modern state institution.

It has an inmate population of approximately 1,400, either committed to its care and custody by the probate courts of the state or under what is known as a school commitment, terms which may be translated into custodial and school to describe its two main elements. It is in the main a training school, having for its distinguishing characteristic highly organized educational features, academic, industrial, manual; and its whole organization is directed, in all the hours of the lives of its charges, to bringing to the utmost the development of lives of usefulness and joy out of personalities restricted but not utterly defeated by mental defect. A parole system undertakes the supervision of some 150 who have graduated from the school under conditions, if that is a fair description of placing-out, leading in most instances to eventual discharge. The school is, as well, the radiating point for clinical work, and a part of its educational effort is expended upon the public, including the contributions the superintendent makes in response to frequent calls from other states who seek and value, even if they do not always follow, his expert advice.

So much of a sketch of Wrentham's place in the state's economy may serve as approach to the continuing question as to the possibilities of service of such an institution beyond the periphery of its somewhat routine responsibilities. Massachusetts shares the common lot of civilized and tax-burdened states in questioning how the future load of mental defect can be reduced. No one can be even slightly associated with such an institution without acquiring an interest in the community's problem. He cannot help feeling that the school, which is the receptacle of a portion of the state's mental defectives, under a process which falls short of being scientifically selective, should be the seat of study, the focal point of research; because of the favoring fact that it has at hand the priceless human material, and with it, the case information showing in a measure the sources of the difficulty which has no institutional bounds.

It is repetition for us to urge that the school should be the place for a study of the problems that the prevalence of mental defectiveness brings to the community. The cause of prevention needs no advocate; it argues itself. We may assume that it is most urgent in the phase of reducing the burden which the presence of mental defect imposes upon the state. Its other phase of actual reduction of the number of feeble-minded in the next or succeeding generations is secondary in the rating the political mind would give; but it is primary in that it goes to the root of the matter. It could not fail to be illuminated if the state would only set about a real study of the material at hand in our state schools. But there is as strong reason for study of the possibilities of earlier discovery of the child's peculiar need and fuller provision for dealing with it in a way to reduce the burden of public care which is piled up by the need of longer detention because of tardiness. Both ends would be served by such research into the existing situation of the inmates of the schools and their prior history.

The development of the school's equipment and service has been so much the subject of our comment and has become so much a matter of course that it is only the new feature that needs mention. More than passing notice is due the addition of the nursery as a school feature. It is, we understand, a novel one in such institutions. It is of special human interest. The people of the state would share in the pride we may take in this provision for the appealing cases, those of the small children. The nursery building now near completion varies in architecture from the others housing our charges and is so placed as to be the first unit in a distinct group that will be the perfected refinement of state care of handicapped childhood.

While convinced that no institution of this sort could have a larger population than that of Wrentham as it now is, we must call attention to the continuous crowded condition of the school, which is now housing more than one hundred above its supposed capacity. The reasons we urge as against a larger institution are that increase in the number tends irresistibly towards a loss of the personal relationship between the administration and the people who are in it; that the line is already crossed which marks the boundary between an institution giving the closest contact with individual problems and progress and an institution which is chiefly notable as big, although we believe that this transformation has been successfully resisted here thus far; that economy is not measureably served by enlargement beyond the present point. What seems to us to be clearly indicated as the state's outstanding institutional need is a new and similar school, placed with relation to the population to be served, which we venture to suggest means the northeasterly part of the state.

Meanwhile, for Wrentham, we would urge:

1. The completion of the projected group of nurseries.
2. The provision of two infirmaries, one for each sex, which the aging of a considerable number of permanent inmates is already making desirable and will increasingly demand as time goes on.
3. Gymnasia for boys and girls separately, a feature that is essential to the scheme of training and development, which is the heart and soul of the school's service to the people whose lives it touches.

The superintendent's report covers the year's developments and offers forward-looking suggestions in which we concur and to which we urgently ask attention.

We share in the gratification of the informed public in the high standing reached by Dr. Wallace as an authority in his great field, with the reservation that nothing of that sort can be counted as a greater distinction than having, in these twenty years, built Wrentham into what it is today.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT L. HARWOOD, *Chairman*
MRS. WILLARD SCOTT
HERBERT PARSONS
GEORGE W. GAY, M. D.

THOMAS H. RATIGAN
PHILIP RUBENSTEIN
KATHARINE D. HARDWICK

Trustees of the Wrentham State School.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

To the Trustees of the Wrentham State School:

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending November 30, 1928. The movement of the population has been as follows:

1. On books of Institution November 30, 1927:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
In institution	562	849	1,411
Absent	71	102	173
Total	633	951	1,584

2. Admissions during year:

First admissions	61	53	114
Readmissions	3	2	5
Transfers from other institutions for feeble-minded	—	2	2
Total received during year	64	57	121

3. Total on books during year

697 1,008 1,705

4. Dismissals during year:

Discharges (not transfers and deaths)	39	31	70
Transfers to other institutions for feeble-minded	25	1	26
Deaths (includes deaths away from institution)	20	20	40
Total number of discharges, transfers and deaths during year	84	52	136

5. Remaining on books of institution Nov. 30, 1928:

In institution	557	852	1,409
Absent	56	104	160
Total	613	956	1,569

The causes of death were as follows:

1 Status Epilepticus	1 Nephritis, Chronic
1 Heart Disease	1 Paralysis of the Insane, General (Juvenile Type)
1 Diarrhea and Enteritis	8 Pneumonia, Broncho
1 Enterocolitis, probably Tubercular	2 Pneumonia, Lobar
1 Intestinal Obstruction, Acute	5 Tuberculosis, Pulmonary
13 Measles	

Most of the deaths occurred among the idiotic, helpless, hospital group of children.

The general health of the population throughout the year has been unusually good. Contagious diseases occurring were pulmonary tuberculosis 5, chicken pox 3, mumps 2, lobar pneumonia 20, measles 76. The only contagion assuming epidemic form was that of measles. When measles gains an entrance into a school of this kind, it is next to impossible to prevent its spread. It usually persists until all the

population reacts to it, that has not previously had the disease. An epidemic of measles is a serious occurrence, for it always proves fatal to a considerable number of the low-grade children. In this respect this year the epidemic of measles was no exception, for out of 76 cases there were 13 deaths.

Of the 121 admissions during the year, the following table gives the ages in five-year periods:

Admissions During the Year ending November 30, 1928

<i>Age</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 5 years.....	10	2	12
5 to 9 years.....	27	14	41
10 to 14 years.....	12	20	32
15 to 19 years.....	13	9	22
20 to 24 years.....	2	7	9
25 to 29 years.....	0	1	1
30 to 34 years.....	0	1	1
35 to 39 years.....	0	1	1
40 to 44 years.....	0	1	1
45 to 49 years.....	0	1	1
50 to 54 years.....	0	0	0
55 to 59 years.....	0	0	0
Total.....	64	57	121

In reviewing the 5-year period tables of admissions to this school for the last 14 years, it is noted that out of 2,884 admissions, 6 per cent have been under 5 years of age, 23 per cent, between 5 and 10, 35 per cent, between 10 and 15, and 24 per cent, between 15 and 20 years. Only 29 per cent have been admitted under 10 years of age, while 59 per cent have been admitted between 10 and 20 years. Thus twice as many children have been admitted during the second decade of their lives than have been admitted during the first 10 years. There is no doubt but that these children who were admitted during the second decade of their lives were just as mentally deficient during their first 10 years of life. Then why such a preponderance of admissions in the age period between 10 and 20 years? It is not on account of mental deficiency alone, neither is it on account of lack of educational advantages, for these are now well provided by the special classes of the public schools. The advent of puberty, the end of school life, the attempt at adaptation in employment and the experiment in social adjustment to meet the demands of adolescent life are transcendent events in the life of the individual and are far more exacting than are the demands made on the individual during the first 10-year period of life. In these are found the reasons for the increased number of applications and admissions to the institution during the second 10-year period.

Then why is admission to the institutions not sought for all mental defectives approaching adolescence? It is well known that such admission is sought for relatively few of the feeble-minded in the community. It is largely the socially mal-adjusted feeble-minded in the second decade of life for whom institutional protection is sought. It is that group of children who, during the first 10 years of their lives, have been acquiring character traits and social habits which make it impossible for them to successfully meet the demands that society exacts of them in the second decade of life.

In connection with this it is interesting to make an analysis of the cases from this school discharged back into the community during the past year. The average age at which these cases were admitted to the school was 15.21 years. The average length of residence in the school was 6.87 years. In this group it is quite apparent that in most of the cases the reason for their admission to the school was on account of lack of social adjustment. It is quite noticeable that the average age on admission was at the very end of their school lives. It took an average of nearly 7 years of institutional life before these people were readjusted to a point where they had a reasonable chance of making a success in the community. In most of these cases undoubtedly the need for their admission to the school was just as real 6 or 7 years

before they were admitted as at the time of their admission. Had these cases been admitted that much earlier, most of them, in all probability, could have been adjusted in the community at the time they were admitted to the institution. Hence, what a saving in time and money could have been effected by the early recognition and early institutional training of these cases.

The whole institutional program of dealing with the feeble-minded in the past has been one of expediency. The institutional facilities have been so inadequate and the pressure for admission has been so great that no attempt has been made in a selective way as to admissions.

From an economic viewpoint as well as a humanitarian one, it would be of the greatest value to recognize mentally defective children who are acquiring anti-social habits at an early age and send them to an institutional school where they can receive the proper education and training as well as 24-hour-a-day supervision. If there were sufficient institutional facilities provided so that a selective policy for admissions obtained, the number of the higher grade children present in an institution population after the school age should be relatively small.

The year was a favorable one for farm production. The following is a list of some of the staple products from the farm:

	Pounds		Pounds
Eggs	(dozen) 6,855.3	Corn, sweet	49,385
Milk	634,990.17	Cucumbers	6,746
Pork	35,963	Onions	20,095
Poultry	6,317	Oyster Plant	1,665
Beef	7,986	Parsnip	14,453
Mangels	27,533	Peas, Green	1,555
Asparagus	2,190	Potatoes	234,654
Beans, shell	4,822	Rhubarb	8,014
Beans, string	12,753	Spinach	8,576
Beets	24,495	Squash	39,338
Cabbage	153,875	Tomatoes	46,571
Carrots	80,119	Turnips	97,080
Celery	5,857	Apples	21,192
Chard, Swiss	14,093	Grapes	1,469

Gooseberries, 1,554 quarts; currants, 592; strawberries, 619.

The industrial departments have been increasingly active during the year. Several new enterprises have been initiated, among them a well-equipped barber shop for boys and a beauty parlor for girls. The boys and girls never fail to be interested in the things they make with their hands. The following is a list of many of the articles made in these departments:

Brooms, 1,284; brushes, 904; fly swatters, 183; mats, rope, 57; building blocks (made and painted), 1,237; game boards, 97; ring toss games, 273; spools, painted, 3,088; shoes repaired (pairs), 6,798; crutches, 10; bags, marble, 514; bags, net, 19; baskets, waste, 41; baskets, flower, 28; baskets, willow, 25; crash, woven, 6,429 yards; denim, woven, 2,467 yards; hickory, woven, 2,244 yards; rugs, trackers, 96; dolls, 182; bean bags, 397; caps and hats, 410; hosiery, 1,080 pairs; mittens, 636; mattresses, 162; table covers and doilies, 469; animals, stuffed, 34; pillows, hair, 53; aprons and gowns, 1,434; blouses, boys', 724; coats and jumpers, 789; corset covers, 723; dresses, 2,034; garters, 6,494; garter waists, 418; garter tips, 453 dozen; rompers, 437; table cloths, 43; towels, 4,491; sheets, ticking, 232; food covers, 313; ironing board covers, 337; curtains, window, 46 pairs; napkins, 288; pillow slips, 299; shirts, 1,086; suits, boys', 323; undershirts, summer, 261; bandage rolls, 2,407; nightgowns, 2,504; overalls, 1,119; sheets, 1,648; pants, 738; covers, press, 72.

The farm and the industrial departments furnish a wonderful outlet for the energy of the pupils. The opportunities here offered, when used in conjunction with the academic work, round out a field of educational opportunity rich in advantages for mentally defective children.

A pocket for the storage of coal, that will accommodate between 3,000 and 4,000 tons, has been built during the year. This is already proving its value, as the coal

is now stored near the boilers where it can be handled in hand cars directly to the boilers. Heretofore it was necessary to spread it over a large area at some distance from the boilers where it required a group of boys with horses and carts the greater part of the winter to rehandle the coal to a point where it could be conveniently used.

The roads throughout the institution have been greatly improved by being graded, rolled and covered with tarvia. This treatment has also been applied to the road leading from the front entrance on Emerald Street to the State Road, so that a first-class road is now maintained from the Administration Building to the State Road. This was accomplished on this road by an arrangement with the town of Wrentham whereby the institution provided a good foundation of gravel and the town did the rolling and applied the tarvia. The grading around Employees' Home No. 9 was completed during the summer. A new electric cable was installed between the power house and the dairy barn. This is part of the line leading from the power house to the pumping station. By installing this new cable as far as the dairy barn, more power is supplied at the pumping station. This increased power is required for operating the pump recently installed.

The policy of keeping the institution painted has been carried on through the year. A group of boys has been kept busy painting the buildings on the boys' side and a group of girls has been kept equally busy painting the buildings on the girls' side of the institution.

For detailed information of the school department, dental department, school clinic and social service departments, I respectfully refer you to the reports of the heads of these departments which I submit as a part of this report. Just a word, however, in review of some of the work in the social service department. This department has paroled 271 girls and 140 boys—411 in all, since 1921. Out of this number it has been necessary to return 14 per cent to the school for miscellaneous reasons. In other words, only 14 per cent of those placed have not made a success on parole. There have been only 9 illegitimate births occurring in this group. This is a much smaller number than would, logically, be expected. It certainly shows the degree of care exercised by the social service department as well as the co-operation secured by this department from the women under whose immediate supervision these girls have been placed.

I wish to call the attention of the trustees to the splendid co-operation and assistance the school receives at all times from the Massachusetts General Hospital in receiving and treating both medical and surgical cases that call for more radical care and treatment than can well be given at our own hospital. During the year 14 cases have been so cared for by this hospital. The wonderful courtesy and attention that our children receive in their treatment at this hospital is worthy of commendation.

The many thoughtful messages received from appreciative parents for the care and education their children are receiving at the school is a source of inspiration to the staff of loyal helpers who are devoted to the children's care.

The school is indebted to the friends who have contributed to the children's gift fund during the year, as well as to those who have given directly to groups of children.

The visiting clergy have contributed much to the general morale of the school and to the happiness of the children. They have been most helpful in responding at all times to various calls as well as faithful in the performance of their regular ministerial duties.

I wish to call your attention to the quality of service rendered by the large group of devoted employees in the school who are constantly on the alert in order that they may give the best possible care to the children. It is largely through their efforts that the degree of excellence of work of this institution has been maintained.

In closing I wish to thank the Board individually and collectively for the help and inspiration you have given me.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE L. WALLACE, M. D.,
Superintendent.

REPORT OF THE DENTAL DEPARTMENT

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School:

I hereby submit to you this annual report for the year ending November 30, 1928.

The summary of the work is as follows: Examinations, 1,166; extractions (permanent), 406; extractions (deciduous), 182; root treatments (permanent), 115; root treatments (deciduous), 3; fillings (permanent), 1,184; fillings (deciduous), 63; prophylactic treatments, 834; silver reduction treatments, 254; treatment of erupting teeth, 41; post-extraction treatments, 230; radiographs, 187; gold inlays, 12; gold inlays reset, 5; local anæsthesia, 243; general anæsthesia, 8; porcelain crowns, 12; porcelain jacket crowns, 4; reset porcelain crowns, 6; gold crowns, 4; bridges, 3; repair bridges, 7; removed old bridges, 3; vulcanite dentures, 15; repaired dentures, 28; ground teeth, 45; Vincents' infection, 29; treatment of various mouth lesions, 167; total patients, 2,557; new patients, 113; dismissals, 801; treatment fractured mandible, 1; operating hours, 1,327; laboratory work, 65 hours; periodontal treatment, 9.

Approximately 50 per cent of the children admitted to the school have had no previous dental care, which is unfortunate principally because most of these children have passed the period when true preventive measures are possible. This statement is not intended to be at all pessimistic but is given rather to show that such a situation compels the practice of reparative dentistry. This is, no doubt, a disadvantage to us in our efforts to overcome dental defects which are present in about 95 per cent of newly admitted children. It is no cause for discouragement, however, but should rather stimulate us to greater effort in the propagation of oral hygiene, urging new employees to see to it that the children brush their teeth regularly, appealing to matrons for an even greater personal interest in the clean appearance of the children's teeth, and, if possible, making it a greater incentive to the child himself to keep his teeth clean.

In order to prevent, as far as possible, the development of diseased foci about the roots of the teeth, practically all putrescent teeth are extracted. Every effort is being made, as in the past, to preserve the vitality of the pulp of the tooth rather than remove it and treat the tooth. Radiographic examinations are indispensable in these cases.

Treatment for the correction of irregularities of the teeth is not instituted as a rule, for the reason that such cases require the services of an orthodontist, who, by training, is especially fitted to correct irregularities expeditiously.

Nearly all restorations are of plastic filling material, amalgam fulfilling the greatest need of the posterior teeth, and porcelain cement that of the anterior teeth. Occasionally, a gold inlay is indicated and is cast by the commercial laboratory. In the constriction of artificial dentures and of bridge restorations, all operations preparatory to vulcanizing and soldering is done by me and the remaining work is done by the laboratory. Repairs of artificial dentures are not required more frequently than might be expected by patients in an institution of this kind.

Local anæsthesia is administered more frequently than general, not only for extraction but also for pulp removal and sometimes for preparation of cavities in sensitive teeth.

Over a thousand clean teeth pins were given out at our annual meeting for this purpose. A short instructive talk on oral hygiene was given, followed by an entertainment consisting of motion pictures and musical selections by the Glee Club. In awarding the clean teeth pins to the children I have been pleased to include those boys and girls who, while not having attained near-perfect results, have, nevertheless, convinced me of the seriousness of their purpose, and have done as well as their mental or physical handicap permitted them.

I hope to obtain a new supply of illustrations, posters and other displays during the coming year, thus continuing a very helpful influence in the maintenance of a high standard of oral hygiene.

The results obtained in our endeavor to reach the high standard mentioned above are a true reflection of the unselfish help given me by the Superintendent and the members of his staff, as well as by my assistant and those other employees who assiduously carry on the gospel of clean teeth in the dormitories.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. NASH, D. M. D.

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School:

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending November 30, 1928.

The major work of the department has been focussed on the placement in the community of children from the school. Closely associated with the placement work is the investigation of home and social conditions preceding the entrance of the child into the community and his supervision while in it. The investigation of requests from relatives and prospective employers for the placing of children in their homes is necessarily more or less of a sifting process, involving not only the collection of all possible facts in regard to the actual home setting but an estimate of the influence upon the child of the personalities with whom he would come in contact. In addition to the social worker's report of environmental conditions the Superintendent and Staff contribute in the consideration of the case their intimate knowledge of the child — his mental endowment, his character traits, etc. Obviously many requests for the return of children must be rejected — or postponed.

During the past year 111 investigations of home and social conditions were made in response to requests from relatives. These necessitated 251 visits to the relatives and informants. Eighty applications were made for the employment of boys and girls. Investigations were made in 69 of these cases, involving 81 visits. In the supervision of children already placed in the community 701 visits were made to the children, their employers or others. This field work has been facilitated by the use of an automobile during the 10 months of good driving conditions. It does not present the whole picture, however, telling of the trips to places inaccessible by train or street car, nor of the convenience in transporting a child from the school to his new home, nor of his pleasure in riding back to the school with the social worker for a few days' visit.

One of the most interesting phases of the work has been the placement of boys and girls in working homes. In many cases where their own homes were broken or otherwise unsuitable for their reception direct effort has been made to place the trained boys and girls in working homes. Excellent co-operation has been obtained from women of intelligence, particularly in the care of some of our girls. The combination of intelligence, patience and a sense of humor on the part of the woman has served to tide several girls over difficult periods of adjustment. Special effort has been made to find homes with women of this type. A typical home in which one girl, L—, has been living for four years is that of Mrs. W. Mr. W. is an optometrist, making a comfortable living and providing a comfortable home in the suburbs. Summers and holidays are spent by the entire family at a shore cottage, 40 miles distant. Trips to this cottage with supplies and the family dog are made in the family car, offering diversion for all. Two girls attending high school, a young brother and baby aged three are important factors in the whole situation. The girls treat L— with uniform courtesy and with just the degree of intimacy which gives her a realization of their friendliness and real liking for her. They follow a definite program at home as well as at school. Mrs. W. is absent from home one or two afternoons each week, usually in connection with her work as president of the Women's City Club. The girls stay at home with L— and the baby on those days. One afternoon and one evening L— goes out to a concert or to the movies with the girls. Occasional shopping trips and automobile rides with Mrs. W. or the whole family give other recreation. L— is devoted to the baby, considering her her special charge.

L— was 33 years of age at the time she was placed in this home. She had been in the school 12 years, and had been on parole for a short period 8 years ago. She had failed to adjust in that home, had re-acted in a manner indicating a severe mental disturbance. She had been subject to "temper spells" and tantrums and had exhibited similar symptoms occasionally after her return to the school. She was considered a good worker, but the advisability of placement in another home was doubtful, unless as her employer a well balanced woman of exceptional understanding and sympathy could be found. Mrs. W. seemed to possess these qualities, exhibiting them fully in her social and family relationships. There were difficult periods of adjustment during the first year of L—'s stay in the home. There are

slight flare ups now but none approximating the difficult "spells" at the previous home or at the school. Incidentally she has a bank account of \$431.52. Her wages are not high but ample enough for pretty clothes, a wrist-watch, a sewing cabinet and other accessories. She has excellent food, an attractive room by herself, care when she is ill, and she is usually the guest of the family in various forms of recreation.

Another phase of the work which has been developed somewhat during the year is in the cases of children who go home on vacation in the summer. Some go for an indefinite period. At the time of departure from the school the parents may feel that the child has had sufficient training, that he should take his place in the home and in industry. Many expect to see marked improvement in his mental condition. A trial visit at home may convince the family that the child is in need of further training at the school. They may return him gladly upon the social worker's advice, until such time as the school officials deem it wise to place him in the community. Ill health in the family or poor economic conditions in the home may make it desirable for the child to return to the school, or a satisfactory adjustment may have been made by the family during the vacation period. The advisability of allowing the child to continue in the community is obvious to the parents and the school. He is then transferred to the regular parole list and is allowed to stay indefinitely.

A small group of low-grade children has been visited during this year for the first time. The social worker kept in touch with the relatives, watching the condition of the child and the ability of the mother to care for him. Practical suggestions for his care have been given in some cases, helping prolong his stay in the home. In other cases, where the mother was becoming overtired, or there was deterioration in the child's condition, arrangements were made for renewed institutional care. Of course the value of work in such cases is to be measured on a different basis than that in cases in working homes. The desirability of its development seems unquestionable.

The co-operation of the Superintendent and members of the Staff in this and other types of cases has been most helpful. The willing assistance of Miss Gerry, assistant social worker, is gratefully acknowledged. Conferences with the State Director of Social Work, the Case Supervisor's Group, the Home Finders Groups and various other groups of social workers from child caring agencies have been productive in developing the work.

Respectfully submitted,

HAWLEY PIERCE FOSTER,
Head Social Worker.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL EXAMINER

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School:

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report for the year ending November 30, 1928.

With the yearly visits of the Clinic the number of children seen each year has shown a gradual increase up to 1927, when we examined the largest number for any one year. This year we have examined 617, distributed as follows:—

Attleboro, 93; Brockton, 138; Chelsea, 127; Dedham, 50; Framingham, 16; North Attleborough, 7; Plymouth, 35; Quincy, 113; Wrentham, 12; Milford, 24; Franklin, 8.

In the early part of the year it became necessary to abandon the field work for a few weeks, and later in the year to work for a time without the aid of a psychometrist, so that not as much time could be given to the work as in other years. Yet, in the number seen, it does not compare unfavorably.

The crowded condition in the State Training Schools practically closes them to the numerous demands made for admission. Hardly a day passes that one or more requests are not received at the Wrentham State School. In Massachusetts there are over 700,000 school children — 1 to 5 per cent of these have intelligence quotients below .70. With this fact in mind the importance of the special classes in the public schools of the community becomes evident. The necessity of specific training

for the mentally handicapped child if he is to adjust and be self-supporting must be more strongly stressed. Many of the pupils in these classes are unaggressive. In these specialized environments where there is competition with other retarded children there is less emotional conflict over differences and therefore inferiority complexes are not so common. Here the pupil makes such successes as he can, and with an understanding teacher some asset in terms of capacity can be found and developed. Even the aggressive, troublesome boy or girl changes his attitude for the better.

Of the 617 children examined, 216 or 35 per cent were descendants of foreign-born parents, other than Italian. Nineteen different countries are represented by this group. There were 147 or 23.81 per cent whose parents are both natives of Italy. Ninety-three children or 15.07 per cent were offspring of mixed parentage, that is, one of them American born, the other of foreign birth. One hundred sixty-one or 26.07 per cent had both parents native Americans. Of our special class children 58.8 per cent are those who have a foreign background; 15.07 per cent have more or less foreign influence.

It is therefore seen how large a part of our special classes is made up of the children of recent immigrants. The teachers tell us that the normal child from the foreign-speaking home advances regularly in the grades, that it is only the dull and slow pupil who fails of promotion.

In the special class, much can be done for these pupils toward the building up of ideas of good citizenship, teaching them, by improved habits, better how to live, to work and to play.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE M. PATTERSON, M. D.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School:

I hereby respectfully submit to you the annual report of the School Department for the year ending November 30, 1928.

During the year, classes in dramatics have been organized for those showing special aptitude in this subject. The custom of holding classes in the dormitories for crippled children and for children not capable of attending the regular school-room has been extended so that now every child who is physically well enough to be out of bed is receiving training. Much of this work with the low-grade children is given in the form of active games and exercises. Many of the older low-grade girls are being taught sewing and repairing. The crippled boys are greatly interested in their handwork classes, which are carried on in their day-room.

In the grades reading is taught as a game and many devices are used to hold the children's interest. The model store has proved a great help in the upper grades and many practical lessons are taught with its help. During the year we have introduced the Thorndike Handwriting Scale and Ayer's Spelling Scale in an effort to assist the children in these subjects.

This year only the younger schoolboys are placed in the wood-working classes. They are taught to saw on a straight line with a coping saw, later a curved line, and so on until they can handle a larger saw and plane with some degree of ease. These boys are then promoted to the industrial department for more advanced work.

In the domestic science department the work is organized with two objectives in view. First, all the girls are given a thorough training in cooking and household duties. This enables them to be more helpful in the various departments of the institution where they may be assigned for duty. Second, a post-graduate class is always receiving instruction. This class is made up of potential parole material and every effort is made to so train the girls that they will be competent helpers in the home.

In the music department several classes have been organized for voice culture in preparation for the choir. Many new voices have thus been added to the choir during the year. A group of small girls and boys has been organized to form a children's choir, which will be available for church services in a short time. The orchestra, band and vocal classes have been conducted as usual during the year. The

Christmas and Easter music was exceptionally beautiful. Several creditable concerts were given during the school year by the various musical organizations.

In addition to the regular physical training classes, conducted in the gymnasium, much work has been done with the low-grade children in the dormitories. We have tried to improve the stumbling, halting, shuffling gait of this group by means of the stepping ladder, walking beam, as well as by exercises in carrying objects, such as a bean bag, on the head, and stretching exercises.

The vocal gymnastic classes, correction of speech defect, correct use of English and story-telling classes have been conducted as usual. The progress of these classes may be noted in the everyday speech of the children, which is certainly showing some improvement. The dumb and blind children are also cared for by this department, classes being held for them daily.

The social life of the school has been particularly active. Weekly dances and moving picture shows have been held regularly. Through the courtesy of Loew's State Theatre and the Boston *American*, we have seen several wonderful new pictures. The employees of the Taunton State Hospital very kindly entertained us; also a group of our village friends. The younger children presented a very pretty operetta at Christmas. In the spring the older boys and girls gave several performances of "The Windmills of Holland." A Pageant of the Nations was given Fourth of July in which over one hundred children took part. The entertainments given at the building weekly parties have been most enjoyable and deserve a great deal of praise; many were repeated for the pleasure of the whole institution.

The summer playgrounds were managed very successfully. A pleasing exhibition of the work was given at the close of the season.

In conclusion I wish to state that had it not been for the co-operation received from the staff of teachers, the degree of success obtained could not have been possible.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARL H. LITTLEFIELD,
Head Teacher.

FINANCIAL REPORT

To the Department of Mental Diseases:

I respectfully submit the following report of the finances of this institution for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1928.

CASH ACCOUNT

Receipts

Income:		
Board of Patients	\$13,810.17	
		\$13,810.17
Personal Services:		
Reimbursement from Board of Retirement		136.70
Sales:		
Travel, transportation and office expenses	\$52.19	
Food	2,182.55	
Clothing and materials	173.87	
Furnishings and household supplies	79.50	
Medical and general care	3.75	
Heat, light and power	2.00	
Farm:		
Cows and calves	\$259.50	
Hides	80.15	
Wood	183.00	
Molasses, bbls.	12.40	
	535.05	
Garage, stable and grounds75	
Repairs, ordinary	53.30	
		3,082.96
Total sales		
Miscellaneous:		
Interest on patients' funds	\$28.78	
Rent	820.29	
Deceased patients' money	189.93	
		1,039.00
Total Income		\$18,068.83

MAINTENANCE

Balance from previous year, brought forward	\$1,124.65
Appropriations, current year:	
\$489,100.00	
Less 3,000.00 transferred	
\$486,100.00	
Plus 480.00	
\$486,580.00	486,580.00
Total	\$487,704.65
Expenses (as analyzed below)	479,170.79
Balance reverting to Treasury of Commonwealth	\$8,533.86

Analysis of Expenses

Personal services	\$217,086.52
Religious instruction	1,745.00
Travel, transportation and office expenses	6,634.52
Food	89,670.44
Clothing and materials	21,490.80
Furnishings and household supplies	26,926.26
Medical and general care	8,882.01
Heat, light and power	33,951.81
Farm	38,179.74
Garage, stable and grounds	5,998.63
Repairs ordinary	13,994.52
Repairs and renewals	14,610.54
Total expenses for Maintenance	\$479,170.79

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

Balance December 1, 1927	\$2,367.19
Appropriations for current year	69,181.60
Total	\$71,548.79
Expended during the year (see statement below)	\$26,531.01
Reverting to Treasury of Commonwealth	7.90*
	26,538.91
Balance November 30, 1928, carried to next year	\$45,009.88

OBJECT	Act or Resolve	Whole Amount	Expended during Fiscal Year	Total Expended to Date	Balance at End of Year
Male Employees' Cottage	1926 79	\$30,000.00	\$682.25	\$29,992.10	\$7.90*
Hay Barn	1927 138	8,000.00	6.37	7,937.26	62.74
Laundry Equipment	1927 138	4,000.00	1,499.19	3,971.66	28.34
Cow Barn	1927 138	6,000.00	26.97	5,946.57	53.43
Resetting Boilers	1928 127	8,000.00	7,593.81	7,593.81	406.19
Nursery Buildings	1928 127	50,000.00	8,384.39	8,384.39	41,615.61
Purchase of Silo	1928 127	1,000.00	933.39	933.39	66.61
Remodeling House	1928 127	10,000.00	7,223.04	7,223.04	2,776.96
Land and Buildings	1928 127	181.60	181.60	181.60	
		\$117,181.60	\$26,531.01	\$72,163.82	\$45,017.78

Balance reverting to Treasury of the Commonwealth during year (mark item with*)	*\$7.90
Balance carried to next year	45,009.88
Total as above	\$45,017.78

PER CAPITA

During the year the average number of inmates has been 1,369.3443.
Total cost for maintenance, \$479,170.79.
Equal to a weekly per capita cost of \$6.6925 (52 weeks to year).
Receipt from sales, \$3,082.96.
Equal to a weekly per capita of \$.04305.
All other institution receipts, \$14,985.87.
Equal to a weekly per capita of \$.2093.
Net weekly per capita, \$6.4402.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH OLDHAM,
Treasurer.

VALUATION

NOVEMBER 30, 1928

<i>Real Estate</i>	
Land, 590 acres	\$19,283.50
Buildings	1,289,962.01
	<hr/>
<i>Personal Property</i>	
Travel, transportation and office expense	\$225.00
Food	10,745.77
Clothing and materials	32,252.80
Furnishings and household supplies	158,801.86
Medical and general care	9,328.85
Heat, light and power	11,431.04
Farm	42,146.04
Garage, stables and grounds	4,720.01
Repairs	12,483.99
	<hr/>
	\$282,135.36
<i>Summary</i>	
Real Estate	\$1,309,245.51
Personal property	282,135.36
	<hr/>
	\$1,591,380.87

STATISTICAL TABLES

AS ADOPTED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED,
PRESCRIBED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES

TABLE 1. — *General Information*

Data correct at end of institution year, November 30, 1928

1. Date of opening as an institution for feeble-minded, 1910.
2. Type of institution: State.
3. Institution plant:

Value of institution property:

Land	\$19,283.50
Buildings	955,349.79
Betterments	334,612.22

Real estate, including buildings	\$1,309,245.51
Personal property	282,135.36

Total	\$1,591,380.87
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Total acreage of main institution property, 590.

Total acreage under cultivation during year, 157.

4. Officers and Employees, September 30, 1928:

	ACTUALLY IN SERVICE AT END OF YEAR			VACANCIES AT END OF YEAR		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Superintendents	1	—	1	—	—	—
Assistant superintendents	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pathologists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other staff physicians	1	3	4	1	—	1
Psychologists	—	2	2	—	—	—
Resident dentists	1	—	1	—	—	—
Principal of school	—	1	1	—	—	—
Teachers of grade subjects	—	6	6	—	—	—
Teachers of special subjects	3	10	13	—	2	2
Social workers	—	2	2	—	1	1
Stewards	1	—	1	—	—	—
Graduate nurses	—	—	—	—	—	—
Matrons	—	8	8	—	2	2
Attendants	11	108	119	—	12	12
All others	46	29	75	2	4	6
Total officers and employees	64	169	233	4	21	25

5. Census of patient population at end of year
- In institution:

	WHITE			COLORED		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Feeble-minded (not epileptic)	432	742	1,174	18	27	45
Feeble-minded epileptics	39	45	84	—	2	2
Others (specify)	46	31	77	5	5	10
Total	517	818	1,335	23	34	57

Enrolled but absent from institution:

	WHITE			COLORED		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
On parole	26	71	97	3	7	10
On escape (not paroled)	14	8	22	1	-	1
Committed for extra-institutional supervision or visit	27	13	40	-	-	-
Total	67	92	159	4	7	11
Grand Total	584	910	1,494	27	41	68

	M.	F.	T.
6. Average daily number of patients actually in institution during year	538.3278	833.2896	1,371.6174

TABLE 2. — *Financial Statement*

See Treasurer's Report for data requested under this table.

TABLE 3 (a). — *Movement of Feeble-minded* Population*

For year beginning October 1, 1927, and ended September 30, 1928

	M.	F.	T.
1. Feeble-minded on books of institution October 1, 1927	579	899	1,478
2. Admissions during year:			
(a) First admissions	45	47	92
(b) Readmissions	5	6	11
(c) Transfers from other institutions for feeble-minded	-	3	3
Total received during year	50	56	106
3. Total on books during year	629	955	1,584
4. Discharges during year (not including transfers and deaths)	37	34	71
5. Transfers to other institutions for feeble-minded within state	25	1	26
6. Died during year	17	19	36
7. Total discharged, transferred and died during year	79	54	133
8. Feeble-minded remaining on books of institution at end of institution year:			
In institution	496	813	1,309
Away from institution	54	88	142
Total	550	901	1,451

*Any patients who are not feeble-minded should be excluded from this table, but included in Table 3 (b).

TABLE 3 (b). — *Movement of Total Patient Population*

For year beginning October 1, 1927, and ended September 30, 1928

	M.	F.	T.
1. On books of institution October 1, 1927	638	953	1,591
2. Received during year	59	57	116
3. Total on books during year	697	1,010	1,707
4. Discharged:			
(a) Into community	43	39	82
(b) To all other institutions	25	1	26
(c) Died	18	19	37
Total	86	59	145
5. On books of institution at end of institution year:			
In institution	540	852	1,392
Away from institution	71	99	170
Total	611	951	1,562

TABLE 4. — *Mental Status of First Admissions and Readmissions*

For the year ended September 30, 1928

NOTE: Tables 4 to 13, inclusive, are for year ended September 30, 1928, and refer to the Feeble-minded Population only.

MENTAL STATUS	Total			First Admissions			Readmissions		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Idiot	12	13	25	11	10	21	1	3	4
Imbecile	17	13	30	14	11	25	3	2	5
Moron	21	27	48	20	26	46	1	1	2
Total†	50	53	103	45	47	92	5	6	11

†Total number of first admissions and readmissions, in this and subsequent tables dealing with admissions, should agree with data given in Table 3 (a).

TABLE 5. — *Nativity of First Admissions and of Parents of First Admissions*

NATIVITY	PATIENTS			PARENTS OF MALE PATIENTS			PARENTS OF FEMALE PATIENTS		
	Males	Females	Total	Fathers	Mothers	Both Parents	Fathers	Mothers	Both Parents
United States..	41	44	85	27	31	23	17	22	14
Austria.....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
*Canada.....	1	1	2	5	6	3	3	4	2
China.....	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
England.....	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Germany.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Greece.....	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Ireland.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Italy.....	—	1	1	—	—	—	8	6	6
Poland.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2
Portugal.....	1	—	1	3	3	3	3	3	3
Russia.....	—	1	1	2	3	2	6	5	5
Scotland.....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Turkey in Asia.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Turkey in Europe.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Unascertained.	—	—	—	3	—	—	4	1	1
Total.....	45	47	92	45	45	32	47	47	35

*Includes Newfoundland.

TABLE 6. — *Citizenship of First Admissions*

	M.	F.	T.
Citizens by birth.....	41	44	85
Citizens by naturalization.....	1	2	3
Aliens.....	3	1	4
Total.....	45	47	92

TABLE 7. — *Age of First Admissions Classified with Reference to Mental Status*

AGE GROUP	Total			Idiot			Imbecile			Moron		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Under 10 years.....	29	10	39	10	2	12	11	3	14	8	5	13
10 to 14 years.....	8	16	24	1	5	6	1	4	5	6	7	13
15 to 19 years.....	7	12	19	—	1	1	1	2	3	6	9	15
20 to 24 years.....	1	5	6	—	2	2	1	1	2	—	2	2
25 to 29 years.....	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
30 to 34 years.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 39 years.....	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
40 to 44 years.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 years and over.....	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total.....	45	47	92	11	10	21	14	11	25	20	26	46

TABLE 8. — *Marital Condition of First Admissions Classified with Reference to Mental Status*

MARITAL CONDITION	Total			Idiot			Imbecile			Moron		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Single.....	45	46	91	11	10	21	14	10	24	20	26	46
Married.....	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total.....	45	47	92	11	10	21	14	11	25	20	26	46

TABLE 9. — *Environment of First Admissions Classified with Reference to Mental Status*

ENVIRONMENT	Total			Idiot			Imbecile			Moron		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Urban	40	46	86	11	9	20	12	11	23	17	26	43
Rural	5	1	6	—	1	1	2	—	2	3	—	3
Total	45	47	92	11	10	21	14	11	25	20	26	46

TABLE 10. — *Economic Condition of Families of First Admissions Classified with Reference to Mental Status*

ECONOMIC CONDITION	Total			Idiot			Imbecile			Moron		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Dependent	7	8	15	2	—	2	1	1	2	4	7	11
Marginal	37	37	74	9	10	19	13	10	23	15	17	32
Comfortable	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Total	45	47	92	11	10	21	14	11	25	20	26	46

TABLE 11. — *Discharges Classified with Reference to Mental Status and Chronological Age*

AGE GROUP	Total			Idiot			Imbecile			Moron		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Under 10 years.	12	8	20	1	4	5	6	—	6	5	4	9
10 to 14 years.	18	4	22	1	—	1	3	2	5	14	2	16
15 to 19 years.	4	14	18	—	1	1	—	3	3	4	10	14
20 to 24 years.	3	3	6	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	5
25 to 29 years.	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	2	2
30 years and over.	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total*	37	34	71	2	5	7	10	8	18	25	21	46

*Total number discharged should agree with item 4 in Table 3 (a).

TABLE 12. — *Deaths Classified with Reference to Mental Status and Chronological Age*

AGE GROUP	Total			Idiot			Imbecile			Moron		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Under 10 years.	14	14	28	7	6	13	5	6	11	2	2	4
10 to 14 years.	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	2
15 to 19 years.	2	2	4	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	2
50 years and over.	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total†	17	19	36	8	6	14	6	8	14	3	5	8

†Total deaths in this and the following table should agree with item 6 in Table 3 (a).

TABLE 13. — *Causes of Death Classified with Reference to Mental Status*

CAUSES OF DEATH	Tot			Idiot			Imbecile			Moron		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
<i>General Diseases:</i>												
Measles	7	6	13	4	1	5	2	3	5	1	2	3
Tuberculosis of lungs	2	3	5	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	1	1
<i>Nervous System:</i>												
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
General paralysis of insane	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1
Epilepsy	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Circulatory System:</i>												
Diseases of the heart	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
<i>Respiratory System:</i>												
Bronchopneumonia	5	3	8	1	2	3	3	—	3	1	1	2
Lobar pneumonia	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—
<i>Digestive System:</i>												
Diarrhea and enteritis	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Genito-Urinary System:</i>												
Chronic nephritis	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total	17	19	36	8	6	14	6	8	14	3	5	8